

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW FIELD MOUSE (*ARVICOLA
TERRÆNOVÆ* sp. nov.) FROM CODROY,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Since November, 1893, Mr. Ernest Doane has been collecting mammals for me in Newfoundland. He has so far sent, among other things, a series of over sixty beautifully prepared skins and skulls of an *Arvicola* that seems to be entirely different from any known species.

This *Arvicola* may be defined as follows:

Arvicola terrænovæ sp. nov.

Diagnosis.

About the size of *Arvicola riparius* Ord, but with larger feet, and of a slightly different coloring, especially about the under parts, which are so much lighter and never show the rufous tinge so common in *riparius*, with nose-patches similar to those of *A. xanthognathus* Leach and *A. chrotorrhiaus* Miller, though not so pronounced as in either of those two. Skull rather broader than that of *A. riparius* and the zygoma more flaring, suggesting the general appearance of the skull of *A. xanthognathus*. The enamel pattern more like that of *riparius*, but the posterior loop of the last upper molar trifoliate.

Description.

Type.—No. 1104 ♂ ad. Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, Boston, Mass. From Codroy, Newfoundland, Nov. 27, 1893, Ernest Doane, collector. Total length, 187 mm.; tail, 54 mm.; hind foot, 24 mm.; ear, 12 mm. (These measurements taken in flesh by the collector.)

Above: Brown, of a color between raw umber and Prout's brown, becoming gradually lighter on the sides, with a slight sprinkling of shining black-tipped hairs on the back.

Under parts: Grey No. 9,* with an indistinct line of darker (about the color of the sides) running up the middle of the belly nearly to the front legs.

There is a well defined nose-patch extending from the nose to and around the roots of the whiskers, of a dull tawny color. The base of the hair is everywhere blackish slate. The tail is distinctly bicolored—above, black; below, grey No. 10,* and quite hairy.

Cranial and dental characters: The skull of *Arvicola terrænovæ* is broad and short, and has the flaring zygoma and great interorbital constriction of *A. xanthognathus*. The rostral part is also narrow as in that species. The pattern of enamel folding is, on the other hand, more like that of *A. riparius*, with the difference that the last loop of the posterior upper molar is trifoliate, as against the crescent shape of *riparius*. There are one or two other trifling differences in the enamel folding that can be better seen by a critical examination of the accompanying drawing.†

This *Arvicola* seems to occupy an intermediate position between the *xanthognathus* and *riparius* groups. The indication of nose-patches can occasionally be found in individuals of *A. riparius*, but I never have seen a series from any one place that shows any tendency to this marking, while every one of my series of sixty-three *A. terrænovæ* has a distinct, though dark colored and not conspicuous nose-patch.

The rather peculiar marking of the under parts is constant through the entire series; indeed, I have seldom seen a series of mammals more uniform in every respect.

Mr. Doane found this field mouse common everywhere about Codroy, where he spent the winter, and where all my specimens came from.

*Ridgway's Nomenclature of colors, Plate II.

†Excellent figures of the skulls of *A. riparius*, *A. xanthognathus*, and *A. chrotorrhinus* can be found in "On a Collection of Small Mammals from the New Hampshire Mountains, by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.", in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, Vol. XXXVI, Plate 3.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

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FIGS. 1 AND 2. SKULL OF THE TYPE *Arvicola terra novae-Bangs*. ABOUT X $\frac{2}{3}$

FIG. 3. MAXILLARY MOLAR SERIES. ABOUT X $10\frac{1}{2}$

FIG. 4. MANDIBULAR MOLAR SERIES. ABOUT X $10\frac{1}{2}$

